The 7
Conditions of Shahada

By

Shaikh Abdullah Faisal

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INTRODUCTION

All praise is due to Allah Lord of the worlds. He alone gives life and takes life. We seek refuge in Allah from the evil of ourselves and the bad consequences of our actions. Whomsoever Allah guides there is none that can lead him astray, and whomsoever Allah misguides there is none that can guide him.

Indeed the Shahada is the recitation of the words: ash hadu an laa ilaaha illal laa, wa ash hadu anna Muhammad Rasool lullah (I bear witness that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, and I also bear witness that Muhammad is the last Prophet and Messenger of Allah. The recitation of this testimony with sincerity makes a person becomes a Muslim. It is the key to Paradise, hence anyone who recites this statement with sincerity will have the gates of Paradise open to him.

A man approached the famous Taabi'ee and Hadith scholar Wahb ibn Munnabih * and said: I heard that the Shahada is the key to Paradise. Wahb said to him:

"Yes but every key has ridges, so if you come on Judgement Day with the right ridges only then the door of Paradise will be open to you. However if your ridges e inadequate the door of Paradise will never be opened to you"
It must be borne in mind that the mere recitation of the Shahada is not enough to render someone a real Muslim. We need to act upon the seven conditions of Shahada in order to be deemed true Muslims. These seven conditions are the ridges the Taabi'ee Wahb ibn Munabbih was referring to. These seven conditions were put in place by the Islamic scholars to help the believers to understand their creed properly and die as true Muslims.

It must also be borne in mind that the hypocrites recite the Shahada, yet Allah dismiss them as liars and promise that their abode will be in the bottom of the Hell-fire to abide therein forever. Thus Allah said:

"Verily the hypocrites will be in the bottom of the Hell-fire; no helper will you find for them."

1 Surah Nisaa 4:145

The hypocrites who will be in the Hell-fire forever are people who were false Muslims yet they pretended to be Muslims in order to deceive the true believers. Usually people pretend to be Muslims for three reasons. To spy on the Muslims, to benefit from the wealth of the Muslims; or to marry a Muslim woman. The Holy Prophet said:

Whoever has the following four characteristics will be a pure hypocrite and whoever has one of the following four traits will have one characteristic of Nifaaq (hypocrisy) unless he gives it up:

1. *Whenever he speaks he lies.*
2. *Whenever he makes a covenant, he proves treacherous.*
3. *Whenever he is entrusted, he betrays and proves to be dishonest.*
4. *Whenever he quarrels, he behaves in a very rude, evil and insulting manner.*
   Sahih Bukhari Vol.1 Hadith No.33

These seven conditions of Shahada when acted upon properly is what differentiate between a real Muslim and a hypocrite. It is very important for all Muslims to know these seven conditions of Shahada to ensure that they are living by them, and to see if they can be counted as true Muslims. It is incumbent on all Muslims to teach their families these seven conditions and make sure they live according to them in their daily lives because Allah said:

"O you who believe! Save yourselves and your family from the Hell-fire whose fuel is men and stones."

Surah Tahrim 66: 6

The cousin of the Holy Prophet (saw) Imam Ali gave the Tafseer of the above -mentioned ayah and he said:

"You save your family from the Hell-fire by teaching them good manners and by educating them in regards to the essential teachings of Islam".

Indeed one of the most essential teachings of Islam is the seven conditions of Shahada. We beg Allah to make this humble effort of mine be of benefit to

many generations of Muslims. We beseech Him to grant us the tawfeeq (ability) to act in accordance with these seven conditions in order to be real Muslims and save ourselves from the Hell-fire.

Shaikh Abdullah Faisal

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The First Condition of Shahada

The testimony of faith which is referred to as the Shahada by Muslims is the recitation of the statement:

Ash hadu an laa ilaaha illal laa, wa ash hadu anna Muhammad Rasool lul laa.

I bear witness that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, and I also bear witness that Muhammad is His last Prophet and Messenger.

This statement when recited with sincerity makes a person becomes a Muslim. However the mere recitation of this statement is not sufficient to enter a person into Paradise. He/she has to act upon the seven conditions of Shahada. There are Muslim countries where the citizens recite the Shahada everyday in the Adhan, Iqaama and Salah, yet they pray to the inhabitants of the graves and beg them for things. This means that their Shahada is false and will not save them from the Hell-fire in the Hereafter.

What's the point in a person reciting the testimony of faith: Nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, yet he/she worships the graves?! Because there are millions of Muslims all over the world who do not live in accordance with the seven conditions of Shahada it becomes necessary for the sincere scholars of Islam to write books explaining to the Ummah the seven conditions of Shahada.

There is even another Muslim country until recently that used to hold a weeklong holiday to send praises to the gods of the sea. These Muslims recite the Shahada everyday in their Adhan, Iqaama and Salah, yet they nullify their Shahada by committing this major Shirk.

The very first condition of Shahada is **ILM**, knowledge of what the Shahada means. The Shahada is a testimony of faith. How can a testimony be valid if the person who is testifying doesn't know what he is testifying to?! In this regard Allah said:

"Those who bear witness to the Haqq, truth sincerely are only those who have knowledge of it." [1]

[1] Surah Zukhruf 43:86

Since the first condition of Shahada is ilm, knowledge of what the Shahada means, all the Muslims who are active in the field of dawa should explain the meaning of the Shahada to all new comers to Islam before giving them their Shahada.

There are people today who live in remote villages without electricity and never heard about Islam or the Prophet Muhammad (saw). These people cannot be judged as Muslims because the first condition of Shahada is knowledge. Examples of such people are the Indians who reside in the Amazon jungle of Brazil and the Aborigines of Papua New Genea. These people have never heard about Islam or the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw), so how can they be called Muslims when the first condition of Shahada is **ilm**, knowledge of what the Shahada means?! Some of these people who live far away from any form of civilization indulge in magic, Shirk and cannibalism. Those who never heard of Islam cannot be deemed Muslims and their fate is with Allah. On Judgment Day Allah will give them Paradise or the Hell-fire as an abode.

It must be borne in mind that if you pronounce a person Muslim he has all the rights Islam offers to him, hence he can marry Muslim women, inherit from Muslims, collect Zakah, enter Makkah and Madinah and be buried in our graveyard when he dies. These rights cannot be granted to a person who has never heard about Islam nor Muhammad (saw).

A person who was born mentally handicap will not be held accountable for not reciting the Shahada because a mad person is stripped of all forms of accountability. The Holy Prophet (saw0 said:

Whoever dies knowing that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah will enter the Paradise.[2]

The above mentioned Hadith is clear evidence that knowledge of the Shahada and what it means is a crucial condition of the Shahada, hence anyone who never heard of Islam cannot be regarded as a Muslim.

Anyone who heard about Islam and died rejecting faith in Islam will be in the Hell-fire forever. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"Whoever follows a religion other than Islam it will never be accepted from him and in the Hereafter he shall be among the losers." [3]

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[2] Sahih Muslim vol. 1 ch. 10

[3] Surah Ali Imraan 3: 85

In regards to this fact the Holy Prophet also said:

"By Allah in Whose Hand my soul is, there is none from amongst the Jews and the Christians who hears about me Muhammad and then dies without believing in me, except that he will be from the dwellers of the Hell-fire." Sahih Muslim vol.1 Hadith No. 240

The Second Condition of Shahada

The second condition of the Shahada is **YAQEEN**, certainty. Therefore it's not allowed for a Muslim to have doubts about the existence of Allah, the angels, the authenticity of the Holy Qur'an, the prophethood of Muhammad or any other Prophets that were mentioned in the Qur'an. A Muslim is not allowed to doubt the Day of Judgement, Paradise, Hell-fire or Destiny. These aforementioned principles are called the six pillars of Faith. Anyone who doubts one of these six pillars of Iman has nullified his/her Shahada. Concerning this condition of Shahada Allah said:

"Verily the sincere believers are only those who believe in Allah and His Messenger and afterward doubt not, but wage jihad with their wealth and their persons in the path of Allah. Those! They are the true Muslims."

Surah Hujraat 49: 15

The scholars of Islam agree unanimously among themselves that this heart disease of doubt is more dangerous to the faith of a person than lust. Because if a person suffers a relapse and commits fornication or adultery they can easily make Tawba, repentance and become a strong Muslim again. However if a person have doubts about crucial aspects of Islam and Iman that are known by necessity, he/she may leave the Deen and never return and dies in a state of apostasy. Anyone who dies in a state of hypocrisy, heresy or apostasy is condemned to the Hell-fire to abide forever. Allah said about the People with the disease of doubt in their hearts:

"Only those who do not believe in Allah and the Last Day and in whose hearts is the disease of doubt that ask you permission to be exempted from jihad."

Surah Tawba 9:45

The above ayah states that the hypocrites of Madina who had the disease of doubt in their hearts about Islam used to approach the Holy Prophet (saw) and seek his permission for them to be exempted from the battlefield. In another ayah Allah said about those with the disease of doubt in their hearts:

"In the hearts of the hypocrites is the disease of doubt concerning their faith, and Allah has increased their disease. A painful torment awaits them because they used to lie by claiming that they believe in Islam completely."

Surah Baqara 2: 10

The cure for this disease of doubt is for this person to mix with strong Muslims and join a study circle to study the Deen under an upright Alim, scholar who is firmly grounded in Islamic knowledge. By doing so his knowledge and iman (faith) will increase and consequently the doubts will evaporate from his heart by Allah's Will.

A person who nullifies his Shahada by committing major kufr eg. magic, spying for the enemy, insulting Allah or His Messenger, and wishes to return to Islam, needs to make sincere Tawba and give up the sin that ejected him outside the fold of Islam. This Tawba of his is regarded as his retaking of the Shahada. In this regard Allah said:

"Say: O my servants who have transgressed against themselves by committing evil deeds and sins! Despair not of the mercy of Allah: Verily, Allah forgives all sins. Truly He is Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful."

Surah Zumar 39: 53

In the aforementioned ayah Allah has made it clear to the mankind that he forgives all sins even major kufr and major Shirk, as long as the perpetrator makes sincere Tawba before he dies. However anyone who dies committing major kufr or major Shirk and didn't make Tawba and abandon his kufr and Shirk has no hope on the Day of Judgment, hence this person is condemned to the Hell-fire to abide therein forever.

The ayah also states that a true believer should not give up from the Mercy of Allah, Because Allah is merciful to His servants. We sin by night and by day and Allah is prepared to forgive us of all our sins as long as we make sincere Tawba, repentance. Allah has even informed us that His Mercy prevails over His Wrath, hence no one should lose hope of His Mercy and Forgiveness.

The Third Condition of Shahada

The third condition of the Shahada is **QABOOL** (acceptance), to believe in it inwardly with our hearts and testify to it with our tongues. It is incumbent on all those who claim to belong to the Ummah of Muhammad (saw) to testify with their tongues to the Shahada. To believe in it with their hearts is not enough to render them Muslims. Allah told us in the Holy Qur'an that the Pharoah of Egypt believed in his heart that Musa (as) brought the truth. Yet the Pharoah died a kafir because he refused to testify when Musa (as) asked him to do so. About the Pharoah Allah said:

"And they rejected those Signs of Allah outwardly due to pride and arrogance, yet in their hearts they were convinced that the Message of Musa was the truth from Allah."

Surah Naml 27:14

In the above mentioned Qur'anic verse Allah told us that the Pharoah believed in the Message of Musa, yet he rejected it outwardly due to pride, arrogance and haughtiness. This Ayah is clear evidence that to believe inwardly is not enough to render someone a Muslim, he has to testify to the Shahada with his tongue. The Pharoah wasn't saved from the Hell-fire even though he believed in Islam with his heart.

There are millions of kafirs today who realize that Islam is the truth, yet they refuse to take their Shahada by testifying with their tongues to the fact that nothing deserves to be worshipped but Allah and Muhammad is His last Prophet and Messenger. These infidels refuse to testify due to pride, arrogance, fear and sometimes envy.

They have envy for the success of the religion on Muhammad (saw). Some refuse to testify because Muhammad was an Arab and not a Jew. Others refuse to testify claiming they have certain vices like girls, drugs, clubs, pubs and alcohol to give up. If they succeed in giving these vices up, only then they'll testify because they don't want to be bad Muslims or hypocritical Muslims. They say when they take the Shahada they want to be real Muslims.

Others refuse to testify because they have the disease of pride in their hearts. This was the plight of Abu Talib, the Prophet's uncle. He died a kafir because he refused to testify due to pride. Some kafirs refuse to testify because they fear losing their parents, siblings, inheritance, friends, jobs, wealth, status and positions in the society. Most of these kafirs who refuse to testify already know that Islam is the truth because we were created with the natural instinct to accept monotheism over polytheism. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"So turn your face O Muhammad towards the pure religion of Islamic Monotheism. This is Allah's Fitrah (natural way) with which He has created mankind. No change will there be for the creation of Allah."

Surah Rome 30: 30

In the above mentioned ayah, Allah told us that He has created mankind on Fitrah. The Arabic word Fitrah means the natural instinct to prefer Tawheed (Islamic Monotheism) over Shirk, polytheism. Therefore those who worship false deities instead of Allah have gone against their natural instinct. In this regard the Holy Prophet said:

"Every child is born on Al Fitrah (Islamic Monotheism, to worship Allah alone), but his parents converted him to Judaism, Christianity or Magianism. Like the animal who gives birth to a perfect baby animal. Do you find it born mutilated?" Sahih Bukhari vol.2 Hadith No. 467

The aforementioned Hadith is clear evidence that we were all born as Muslims but our evil environments corrupted us and turned us into things other than Muslims. When a person embraces Islam by taking the Shahada, he/she is returning to the Fitrah (natural way) with which Allah has created us.

When the Prophet's uncle Abu Talib was dying he rushed to his bedside and begged him to testify to the Shahada so that he will be in Paradise on the Day of Judgement. Unfortunately he refused to testify and died a kafir. The Holy Prophet was devastated to see his uncle who supported him against the pagans of Quraish died a kafir because he didn't take the Shahada. Consequently Allah revealed the following Qur'anic verse to comfort the Holy Prophet (saw).

Verily you cannot guide to Islam those whom you like, but He Allah alone guides whom He wills. And He knows best who are the guided ones.

Surah Qasas 28: 56

In regards to this third condition of Shahada Allah said:

"Allah bears witness that none has the right to be worshipped except Him. And even the angels testify, and those having knowledge also testify."

Surah Ali Imraan 3:18

It is worthy of mentioning that a person who associates with the Muslims and learns how to perform Salah after believing in Islam is to be regarded as a Muslim even if no one gives him the Shahada. This is so because when he recites the tasha'hud it is deemed as his testimony to the Shahada, and all the believers who prayed with him in the Masjid are witnesses to the fact that he prays hence he is a Muslim. Also a person who believes in Islam and leaves his home for the Masjid to take his Shahada but dies on his way in a car accident, dies as a Muslim because Allah will reward him for his intention of making an effort to take his Shahada.

If a man takes his Shahada and he has a wife who is not a Muslim, Christian or Jewish, then he has to divorce her if she refuses to take her Shahada. If a woman takes her Shahada and she has a kafir husband, he too has to take his Shahada if not the marriage is void. If a man takes his Shahada and he has children who reached puberty, they too have to take the Shahada. If any of his children refuse to take the Shahada he/she has to be disinherited. However if his children are beneath the age of puberty, they need not take the Shahada because every child was born a Muslim.

Likewise a child who was brought up by Muslim parents or a Muslim family with the Islamic creed and culture need not take his/her Shahada after reaching puberty. The Sahabas didn't give the Shahada to their children after reaching puberty. I am aware that the stray sect the khawaarij believe that every Muslim child should take the Shahada upon reaching puberty, but this is bid'ah (innovation) in regards to the Islamic Faith.

The Muslim child had already taken the Shahada publicly when he/she prayed at home, Masjid, school, college, university etc. When he/she recited the tasha'hud that was sufficient as a public testimony of the Shahada which will suffice to take him/her to the Paradise on Judgement Day if they acted upon the Shahada appropriately in their everyday lives.

This third condition of the Shahada which is to believe inwardly and to declare it with your tongue also means that a person has to die believing in the Shahada. It is for this reason when we make Dua, supplication for the dead at every janaaza (funeral) we beg Allah to let us live on Islam and die with Iman (faith). To die with Iman means to die believing in the Shahada.

A new Muslim who takes the Shahada has to take a shower as soon as possible. The Holy Prophet used to command new Muslims to take a shower; this is the Islamic form of baptism. This ritual bath is compulsory and should not be ignored by the new reverts to Islam. A child who died before reaching puberty is considered pure and sinless, thus he will be in Paradise with Prophet Ibrahim. This child will even intercede for his Muslim parents on the Last Day.

It is recommended that there are two witnesses present at every Shahada but one witness is adequate, even if the witness is a woman. This is so because the Holy Prophet executed a murderer in Madina based on the testimony of the victim who was a woman. The Holy Prophet extracted her testimony shortly before she died. It is also permissible to take the testimony of one woman about the moon of Ramadan. These isues are a matter of ijtihad for the Ulama, scholars because some women are mentally and spiritually unstable hence they are unsuitable as witnesses in regards to Deen and dunya matters.

The Fourth Condition of Shahada

The fourth condition of our Shahada is **INQIYAAD**, submission to Qur'an and Sunnah. Thus the correct definition of Islam is: To surrender to Allah with Tawheed, and to submit to Him with obedience, and to renounce Shirk and the people of Shirk.

A person cannot be regarded as a true Muslim if he/she is rebellious to Qur'an and Sunnah. One will realize that the Shahada when recited is:

Ash hadu an laa ilaaha illal laa, wa ash hadu anna Muhammad Rasool lullah.

I bear witness that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, and I also bear witness that Muhammad is His last Prophet and Messenger.

This testimony of Shahada means that the one who recites it takes a pledge to surrender to Qur'an and Sunnah, and he will relinquish all desires that are in conflict with Qur'an and Sunnah. This submission to Qur'an and Sunnah is with two conditions. The Tafseer, explanation of the Qur'an that he submits to should be done by someone who is not a deviant and is qualified to give Tafseer, eg Ibn Kathir, Showkaani, Shinqayti, Ibn Taymiyya etc. Secondly the Hadith he submits to should be sahih, authentic and not weak or fabricated. It is haram to base our creed on weak or fabricated Hadiths. This practice of using weak and fabricated Hadiths for Aqeeda is rife among the stray sects.

It is worthy of mentioning that the authentic Hadiths have the same power as the Holy Qur'an to make things haram or fard, compulsory for us. For example it is fard to recite Surah Fatiha in Arabic in every rakah of Salah. If this is not done our Salah is void. This ruling is to be found in Hadith and not the Holy Qur'an. Also it is haram for male Muslims to wear gold and silk. This hukm is to be found in Hadith and not in the Holy Qur'an.

Anyone who believes in Qur'an but not Hadith is not a Muslim but an infidel. This is the creed of a heretical group called the Parvezis. They are usually referred to by the mainstream Muslims as, The Hadith Rejecters. If a person believes in the

Qur'an he has to believe in Hadith also because the Qur'an has commanded us to follow Hadith, thus the Qur'an said:

"Whatsoever the Messenger Muhammad gives you take it; and whatsoever he forbids you abstain from it."

Surah Hashr 59:7

The aforementioned ayah is used to refute the Parvezis who insist on following Qur'an but not Hadith. The Parvezis are hypocrites because if they were true believers in the Holy Qur'an they would have obeyed the command in the Qur'an to follow Hadith. When we recite the Shahada and declare: Muhammad Rasool lullah it means that Muhammad was sent by Allah to explain the Holy Qur'an to us. Thus the Hadith rejecters do not believe in this aspect of the Shahada. Muhammad Rasool lullah also means Muhammad was the last Prophet. Thus the Ahmadi who believes that Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a prophet after Muhammad is an infidel outside the fold of Islam. This creed has nullified his/her Shahada.

This is the same ruling for the black Americans who believe that Elijah Pole was a Prophet, Messenger or Apostle after Muhammad (saw). I am aware that the followers of Elijah Pole claim that Muhammad was the last Prophet but not the last Messenger, hence Messengers will appear after Muhammad. This is their semantics and they are still kafirs because there's no Prophet, Apostle or Messenger after Muhammad (saw). In regards to Muhammad been the last Prophet Allah said:

"Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but he is the Messenger of Allah and the last of the Prophets."

Surah Ahzaab 33: 40

In explaining to mankind that he was the last Prophet and Messenger of Allah the Holy Prophet said:

"My similitude in comparison with the other Prophets before me is like a house which was beautifully built. People go around the house and look at it with admiration and say: This house would have been perfect except that there is a missing block! Verily I am that missing block, and I am the last Prophet, there's no Prophet or Messenger after me." Sahih Bukhari vol. 4 No.735

Muhammad Rasool lullah also means, Muhammad was the best Prophet. Hence anyone who doubts this fact has nullified his/her Shahada. In this regard the Holy Prophet said:

"I will be the noblest son of Adam on Judgment Day and this is not to boast. I will be the first to come out of the grave. I will be the first to intercede and the first to have his intercession accepted." Sahih Bukhari vol.4 p 350

In another ayah Allah commands us to follow Hadith by saying:

Say O Muhammad to mankind: "If you really love Allah then follow me, Allah will love you and forgive you your sins."

Surah Ali Imraan 3: 31

The above mentioned ayah is another Qur'anic evidence which is used to refute the Hadith rejecters. The ayah states that those who claim to love Allah should prove it by following Hadith. In regards to the fourth condition of Shahada which is to submit to Qur'an and Sunnah Allah said:

"It is not befitting of a believing man or a believing woman, when Allah and His Messenger have decreed a matter that they should have any option in their decision. And whoever disobeys Allah and His Messenger, has indeed gone into manifest error."

Surah Ahzaab 33: 36

This Qur'anic verse forms the basis of the fourth condition of Shahada which is to submit to Qur'an and Sunah. In another ayah Allah said:

"Nay by your Lord they will never be true believers until they allow you Muhammad to judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions but instead submit to them wholeheartedly."

Surah Nisaa 4: 65

During the lifetime of the Rasool (saw) a man went to him for a verdict about a matter. The Messenger of Allah gave the man the verdict but he wasn't happy so he went to Abu Bakr and sought his opinion. Abu Bakr shunned him because he knew that the Prophet (saw) had already replied to him. The man then went to Umar and asked him for his verdict. Umar took out his sword and chopped off his head and said: "This is my verdict." It is because of this reason Allah revealed the Qur'anic verse:

“Nay by your lord they will never be true believers until they allow you Muhammad to judge in all disputes between them, and find in themselves no resistance against your decisions but instead submit to them wholeheartedly.”

Surah Nisaa 4: 65

It is worthy of mentioning that when Umar chopped off the head of the man who sought an alternate verdict to the verdict of the Holy Prophet, none of the Sahabas nor the Rasool (saw) rebuked Umar and accused him of overacting. They all considered the questioner a hypocrite because only a hypocrite would go to an ordinary human being to seek a verdict other than the verdict of the Rasool (saw). It is amazing how many so called Muslims today use the verdicts of ordinary human beings to veto the verdicts of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw).

In regards to the fourth condition of Shahada which is to submit to Qur’an and Sunnah, Allah said:

“O you who believe! Enter into Islam wholeheartedly and do not follow the footsteps of the Shaitan. Verily he is to you an open enemy.”

Surah Baqara 2: 208

In regards to this fourth condition of Shahada which is **inqiyaad,** submission to Qur’an and Sunnah, the Holy Prophet said:

“None of you truly believes until his desires are in accordance with what I Muhammad have brought.” Reported by Al Maqdisi in his book of Hujjah

In order for the Muslims of today to achieve success like the companions of the Holy Prophet did, we need to embrace Islam wholeheartedly by submitting to Qur’an and Sunnah. Indeed the fourth condition of Shahada is a prerequisite for us to achieve success in this life and the Hereafter.

The Fifth Condition of Shahada

The fifth condition of Shahada is called **SIDQ**, truthfulness. This means when a person recites the Shahada he should believe it from his heart. A person who recites the Shahada to marry a Muslim girl is not a real Muslim because he is reciting the Shahada to accomplish some worldly benefit. Another man who recites the Shahada to benefit from the wealth of the Muslims is not a true Muslim because he is reciting the Shahada with an ulterior motive.

This condition of the Shahada Sidq, truthfulness also means that we should condemn all shades of falsehood. We should wage a resistance against Batil, falsehood in all its forms. In this regard the Holy prophet said:

"Whoever sees an evil let him stop it with his hands, and if he cannot let him condemn it with his tongue, and if he cannot let him hate it in his heart and that is the weakest level of Iman, faith." Muslim book 1 Hadith No. 79

The above mentioned Hadith is clear evidence that a Muslim is not allowed to pick and choose which falsehood to condemn, instead he should condemn all types of falsehood and remove them if he has the ability to do so. Its because of this reason the scholars of Islam label this condition as Sidq, truthfulness. Hence a true Muslim who is sincere to his/her faith will condemn all shades of falsehood. This principle of Islam is called : To Enjoin the Right and to Forbid the Wrong. In this regard Allah said:

"Let there arise out of you a group inviting to all that is good, Al Ma'roof and forbidding all that is evil Al Munkar. And it is they who are the successful ones."

Surah Ali Imraan 3: 104

To enjoin the right and forbid the wrong is a religious duty. If we do not enjoin the right and forbid the wrong when Allah sends His natural disasters to punish the wayward it will envelope both the good and the bad from among the citizenry. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"And fear the fitna (affliction and punishment) which affects not in particular only those of you who do wrong but it may afflict everyone, the good and the bad people. And know that Allah is severe in punishment.

Surah Anfaal 8: 25

The above mentioned Qur'anic verse means that if we don't enjoin the right and forbid the wrong, when Allah's punishment decends it shall envelope everyone, both the good and the bad from the citizenry.
The fifth condition of Shahada is to condemn all shades of falsehood, by doing so we would be true to our faith, thus in this regard Allah said:

"**The believers men and women are helpers and protectors of each other; they enjoin the right and forbid the wrong. They perform Salah and give Zakah, and obey Allah and His Messenger. Allah shall show mercy to them. Surely Allah is All Mighty, All Wise."**

Surah Tawba 9: 71

I am aware that some Muslims condemn the evil if it doesn't affect them financially. However if the evil benefits them financially they justify it or even pass a fatwa allowing it. This is not sincerity to the Shahada. Its because of this reason the Ulama named this fifth condition **Sidq,** truthfulness. Not until we condemn all shades of falsehood we cannot be counted among the true believers. Some so called Muslims condemn the Shirk of worshipping the graves, and make takfeer on the grave-worshippers. But they do not condemn the Shirk of governing the populace with man-made laws. These people are hypocrites because they pick and choose which Shirk to condemn. In regards to their stance Allah said:

"Will you believe in a part of the book and reject faith in another part? Then what is the recompense of those who do so from among you, except disgrace in the life of this world, and on the Day of Resurrection they shall be consigned to the most painful torment. And Allah is not unaware of what you do."

Surah Baqara 2: 85

The sin of praying to the graves is called, the Shirk of ibaada, worship. The sin of governing the populace with man-made laws instead of Sharia law is called the Shirk of Haakimiyya, legislation. Tawheed Haakimiyya is the twin half of Tawheed Ibaada, so to condemn one sin and justify the other is hypocrisy of the highest order. Hence those who adopt this way as their creed have nullified their Shahada because the fifth condition of Shahada is to condemn all shades of falsehood.

Rejecting the Taghoot

Whenever one analyses the Shahada carefully, he/she will realize that the Shahada Laa ilaaha illal laa is comprised of two parts. Laa ilaaha, there is no god is called **nafyu,** negation. illal lah, except Allah is called **ithbaat,** affirmation.

Therefore in order for a person to be a true Muslim he/she needs to practice both parts of the Shahada. Hence it is incumbent on all Muslims to reject the Taghoot, false deities then believe in Allah. The problem in the Ummah today is that the Ulama are telling the Muslims to believe in Allah but they forget to tell the Muslims to reject the Taghoot. Hence many Muslims died believing in Democracy even though it is the religion of Iblis.

Whenever a person believes in Allah he is only practicing half of the Shahada. In order for a person to be a real Muslim he has to practice both parts of the Shahada, therefore he has to reject faith in the Taghoot with all its forms, then believe in Allah. The Arabic word Taghoot is usually translated into English as false deities, but it's a comprehensive term that bears the following meaning.

(1) A false god which is worshipped beside Allah, hence Buddha is a Taghoot because he is worshipped by millions of people all over the world. Even though Jesus is worshipped beside Allah he is not a Taghoot because he doesn't agree for people to worship him. In regards to this type of Taghoot Allah said:

" **Let there be no compulsion in religion because truth stands out clear from falsehood. So whoever disbelieves in the Taghoot and believes in Allah has hold fast to a grip that is the firmest of handhold. No break will there be for this grasp!"**

Surah Baqara 2: 256

The Taghoots referred to by Allah in the aforementioned ayah means the false deities that people worship beside Allah. Hence the so-called Muslims who worship the graves by praying to them are guilty of worshipping the Taghoots, so

they have nullified their Shahada. Whats the point in reciting the Shahada, Nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah and then worship the graves?! The Berailwis and the extreme Sufis are the most notorious grave worshippers of this Ummah.

Indeed a Berailwi (grave-worshipper) is not sincere in his recitation of the Shahada because the Shahada means, I testify that nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, and I also testify that Muhammad is His last Prophet and Messenger. The Berailwis are people who are coming from a Hindu background, and they hang on to Hinduism whilst pretending to be Muslims. Some cows give a bucket of milk and then kick it over. Likewise some people recite the Shahada and then nullify their Shahada. A Berailwi nullifies his Shahada by praying to the graves while an Ahmadi nullifies his Shahada by claiming Mirza Ghulam Ahmad was a Prophet after Muhammad. (saw).

(2) Taghoot also means man-made religions, creeds, ideologies, isms and schisms. Hence Communism, Christianity, Capitalism, Hinduism, Buddhism Socialism and Democracy are all examples of Taghoot. In this regard Allah said:

"Have you not seen those who were given a portion of the Scripture? They believe in superstitions and Taghoot, false doctrines. And say to the disbelievers that they are better guided in regards to religion than the Muslims."

Surah Nisaa 4: 51

The word Taghoot in the above mentioned ayah means all man-made doctrines and ideologies that are inviting mankind to the Hell-fire. Democracy is a Greek word which means the government of the people, for the people and by the people. Therefore the MPs and senators sit in parliament and make laws to govern the populace and ignore heavenly revealed laws. Democracy came about to dislodge all heavenly revealed laws and to replace them with man-made laws. This system goes against Allah's Haakimiyya because Allah has the sole right to legislate and make laws.

The god which is worshipped in a Democracy is hawa, evil desires. This is why in the Democratic countries of Western Europe they allow gay marriages in the name of freedom and Democracy. This man-made system called Democracy is a Taghoot and it is the religion of Iblis. Hence no Muslim is allowed to believe in it or strive to uphold it by working for institutions that are directly connected to Democracy.

It is incumbent on all Muslims to believe in a Theocracy rather than a Democracy. Theocracy means the government of Allah, for Allah and by Allah. Hence Sharia which is Allah's law is implemented in a Theocracy and not man-made laws like we see in a Democracy. In a Democracy the vote of an atheist carries the same weight as that of a believer. The vote of a harlot is the same as a decent married woman. The vote of a homosexual is the same as a decent married man. Thus there's no justice in a Democratic system.

(3) The third type of Taghoot is the judicial system of the kuffaar and other institutions that uphold their kufr regime. This includes the UN, IMF, NATO and all the courthouses of the kafir regimes. We are not allowed to uphold UN resolutions because this organization is anti Muslim. The UN and NATO did not do anything to prevent the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia by Serbs during the late 1980s. Likewise the UN used sanctions to starve over a million Iraqi children to death over a period of 13 years from 1990 to 2003. They hate Muslims so much they put embargo on baby food. It is haram for a Muslim country to join the UN, IMF or NATO because these are Dajjal institutions. We are not allowed to go to the kafir courthouses for judgment because we do not believe in man-made laws, we believe in heavenly revealed laws. In this regard Allah said:

Have you not seen those hypocrites who claim that they believe in that which has been revealed to you O Muhammad, and that which was sent down before your time. That they wish to go to the Taghoot for judgment in their disputes while they were commanded by Allah to reject them. But the Shaitan wishes to lead them far away from the straight path.

Surah Nisaa 4: 60

The word Taghoot in the above mentioned Qur'anic verse means the false judges in the kafir courthouses. We are not allowed to believe in these courthouses because they are been governed by man-made laws. It is haram and Shirk for a Muslim to believe in man-made laws. This Shirk is major and renders his Shahada void. The noble scholar of Islam Alaama Shinqayti said in his Tafseer Adwaa'ul Bayaan:

"The one who goes to the kafir courthouse for judgment is doing major Shirk and there's no difference between him and the man who bows down to idols."

Adwaa'ul Bayaan 7/164

It is amazing how many Muslims are ignorant about things that are known of Islam by necessity. It is unbelievable how the knowledge of authentic Tawheed is kept away from the Muslims. Ibn Kathir and Ibn Taymiyya said:

It is known of Islam by necessity and it is the ijmaa, agreement of all Muslims that whoever dislodges the Sharia is a kafir. And such a person should be fought till he returns to the Sharia of Muhammad (saw). See tafseer Ibn Kathir for the explanation of Maida 5: 50 and fatawa 28/524

These two noble scholars said it is the ijmaa of all Muslims that whoever dismantles the Sharia of Muhammad (saw) is a kafir, hence anyone who goes against this ijmaa doesn't belong to the Ummah, and their creed is heresy. Those who refuse to accept the ijmaa of the Ummah are in pursuit of worldly benefits. To go against the ijmaa of the Ummah is an act of apostasy. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"And whoever contradicts and opposes the Messenger (Muhammad saw) after the right path has been shown clearly to him, and follows a way other than the path of the believers, we shall keep him in the path which he has chosen, and burn him in Hell, what an evil abode!"

Surah Nisaa 4: 115

The above mentioned ayah is clear evidence that no Muslim is allowed to go against the ijmaa of the Ummah. To go against the ijmaa of the Ummah is an act of apostasy that causes the person to abide in the Hell-fire forever. I am aware that there are some so-called Muslims who labeled themselves as Salafis who go against the ijmaa of the Ummah and claim that to dislodge the Sharia of Muhammad (saw) is a minor kufr, hence the ruler who replaces the Sharia is still a Muslim. This creed is heresy because it contradicts the ijmaa quoted by Ibn Kathir and Ibn Taymiyya which they said was also the ijmaa of the Ummah. Anyone who has the Salafi Aqeeda (creed) that says to dismantle the Sharia is minor kufr (disbelief) needs to make Tawba from this belief because this creed is heresy.

Any creed that goes against the ijmaa of the Ummah is heresy, hence Allah promises those who rebel against the ijmaa the Hell-fire as a permanent abode. Concerning Allah's right to be the sole lawgiver the Holy Qur'an says:

"And He Allah doesn't allow anyone to share with Him in His Rule."

Surah Kahf 18: 26

One of Allah's 99 names and attributes is Al Hakam, the Judge hence it is known of Islam by necessity that He is the sole lawgiver.

(4) The fourth type of Taghoot is the armies of kafir and apostate regimes. It is incumbent on all Muslims to reject the armies of the kuffaar and the apostates. Muslims who join these armies have nullified their Shahada because to give bay'ah to a Taghoot army is an act of hypocrisy and apostasy. Likewise all the Muslims who died fighting for apostate regimes have died outside the fold of Islam.

In regards to this fourth type of Taghoot which is the army of the Kuffaar and apostate regimes Allah said:

"Those who believe fight for Allah, and those who are kafirs fight for the sake of the Taghoot. So fight O Muslims against the friends of Shaitan. Ever feeble indeed is the plot of the Shaitan."

Surah Nisaa 4: 76

The word Taghoot in the above ayah means the armies of the kafir regimes. Thus this aforementioned Qur'anic verse is clear evidence that those who fight for the sake of the Taghoots are guilty of major kufr, disbelief. The only army a Muslim is allowed to join is the Mujaahideen, therefore to join any other army is an act of hypocrisy and apostasy.

I am aware that some shaykhs passed fatwas allowing Muslims to join the armies of the kuffaar and apostate regimes. This fatwa is wrong because Allah said it's only the disbelievers who fight for the Taghoot.
These scholars who passed this erroneous fatwa need to make Tawba publicly because they are guilty of misguiding the Ummah.

Muslims who die fighting for the Taghoots cannot be prayed over or be buried in the graveyard of the believers. They died as kafirs and apostates because they died fighting for a regime which is an enemy of Islam.

It is worthy of mentioning that any Islamic scholar who passed a fatwa allowing a kafir army to set up a military base in a Muslim country, and consequently that military base is used to kill fellow Muslims; this scholar becomes a kafir and an apostate because he didn't reject the Taghoot, instead he takes side with the Taghoot against Islam and Muslims. In this regard the noble scholar of Islam Ibn Taymiyya said:

Whenever a scholar leaves off his knowledge and follows a ruler that governs contrary to Qur'an and Sunnah, that scholar becomes a kafir and an apostate who deserves to be punished both in this life and the next. Fatawa 35/373

The companions of the Holy Prophet (saw) sacrificed their wealth, time and lives on the battlefield to cleanse the Arabian Peninsula of Kufr and Shirk. Thus when a scholar passed a fatwa allowing the armies of the Crusaders to set up a permanent military base in the Arabian Peninsula, that scholar is guilty of betraying the blood of the Sahabas.

(5) The fifth example of Taghoot is the icon of a false religion. Hence the false Prophet Musaylima was a Taghoot and he has taken with him thousand of people to the Hell-fire. He and his followers were fought and killed at a battle called Yamaama 11AH. This battle was one of the fiercest battles the Sahabas had to fight. The valley were the two armies met is labeled the Valley of Death, because many Sahabas lost their lives fighting the army of Musaylima in this valley. Seventy memorizers of the Holy Qur'an perished at this battle. Its for this reason Abu Bakr agreed to put the Holy Qur'an in the form of a book. The Sahabas feared it may fall into oblivion.

Another example of a Taghoot is Elijah Pole, because he was the leader of a false religion. His religion is called *The Nation of Islam* and he claimed to be a Prophet after Muhammad just like Musaylima did. Another Taghoot was Mirza Ghulam Ahmad. Like Elijah Pole he too claimed to be a Prophet after Muhammad. All the icons of false religions are Taghoots, hence Mother Teresa was a Taghoot because she was an icon for the Catholic creed. Consequently she caused many people to believe Jesus is God. Many of these people even died believing Jesus is God. Allah spoke about the icons of false religions in the Holy Qur'an. These people always encourage their flock to hold on to disbelief, thus Allah said:

"And the leaders from among them went about saying: Go on, and remain steadfast in worshipping your god! Verily this is a thing designed against you."

Surah Saad 38: 6

The Taghoots of Quraish encouraged the people to hang on to idolatry because they used Shirk to control the populace. The Taghoots of Christianity encourage their flock to be steadfast and hold on to the Trinity even though the Trinity is Paganism because they worhip three deities in a godhead. All the Prophets taught Monotheism but the Trinity is Polytheism so Jesus is innocent of the Trinity. Like the pagans of Makkah the Christian leaders use the church to make money so it's in their favour to keep their flock ignorant and keep them away from the truth.

The Taghoots of the Berailwi creed are just like the pagans of Makkah, they are vehemently oppose to Islamic Monotheism because it will eradicate the Shirk they are practicing. There's no difference between a pagan of Makkah and a Berailwi. The pagans of Makkah used to worship the idols of the Kaba and today the berailwis worship the graves. Therefore they are both pagans whose destiny is in the Hell-fire to abide therein forever. Whenever a caller to Islam goes to a country, city, town or village to preach true Islam, he should expect opposition from the leaders of false doctrines because they feel insecure about the arrival of the truth in their community. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"Indeed We have set up in every town great ones of its wicked people to plot against the Haqq, truth. But they only plot against themselves while they perceive it not."

Surah An'aam 6: 123

The Prophets and Messengers of Allah suffered a great deal at the hands of these people who plot against Islamic Monotheism. Many Prophets were murdered for taking an uncompromising stance for the Haqq. Also the four great Imams suffered a great deal at the hands of the enemies of the truth. Abu Hanifa who is called the father of ahlus sunnah wal jamaa'a was put in prison and then poisoned by the enemies of the Haqq. Consequently Imam Abu Hanifa died in prison. Imam malik had both hands dragged out by the Abbasid Caliph Mansoor because he refused to pass erroneous fatwas for him. The lives of the Prophets were extremely difficult whilst they were on earth. And the inheritors of the Prophets i.e. the sincere scholars will have a similar experience because the icons of false religions will forever plot against the truth to guarantee their own survival.

The great scholar of Islam Ibn Taymiyya suffered alot at the hands of these icons of false doctrines. So he said in his letters from prison:

What can my enemies do to me, if they put me in prison I use my cell to do I'tikaaf with my Lord. If they deport me I use the opportunity to give dawa to a new population, and if they kill me they make me a shaheed.

When the Holy Prophet went to the city of Taif to give dawa, the icons of Shirk were afraid to lose their positions and status so they incite the rabble against the Holy Prophet (saw). Consequently they stoned him till his shoes were filled with blood. If a sincere scholar should go to a village which is infested with Berailwis and Sufis to preach the Haqq, the icons of the Berailwi kufr will incite the rabble against him and may even have him killed because there is a lot of wealth to be earned from keeping the people ignorant and steadfast in committing major Shirk.

The icons of kufr are terrified of the Haqq, hence they always submit the names of the daa'ee, caller to Islamic Monotheism to the secret services and demand that he should be incarcerated and deported. Recently these heretics use the word terrorist to label the sincere callers to Islam. The heretics who are known for working in collusion with the secret police of the kuffaar are the Sufis and the Salafis. This is because these two groups have made up their own religions, hence they are terrified of been exposed by the dawa of Ahlus sunnah wal Jamaa'a. Indeed the fifth condition of the Shahada is to condemn all shades of falsehood, therefore no one can be regarded as a true Muslim till he/she lives up to this crucial condition of the Shahda.

The Sixth Condition of the Shahada

The sixth condition of Shahada is called singularity of devotion. This condition is referred to by the Ulama as **IKHLAAS,** sincerity. This is so because not until we single Allah out for worship without worshipping anyone else we cannot be deemed sincere Muslims. Shirk, idolatry is the worst crime under the heavens and anyone who dies in a state of Shirk will be condemned to the Hell-fire to abide therein forever. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"Verily Allah doesn't forgive the crime of Shirk, but He will forgive anything else to whom He please."

Surah Nisaa 4: 48

The above-mentioned ayah is clear evidence that Shirk is a huge crime against Allah and anyone who dies in a state of Shirk has no hope in the Hereafter. However if an infidel takes the Shahada and makes Tawba from Shirk, Allah will forgive him because he abandons Shirk before he dies. In this regard Allah said:

"Say: O My servants who have transgressed against themselves by committing evil deeds and sins! Despair not of the Mercy of Allah: verily Allah forgives all sins. Truly he is Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

Surah Zumar 39: 53

The above-mentioned Qur'anic verse tells us that Allah forgives all sins; this includes major Shirk. However the one who is committing major Shirk has to give up Shirk and make sincere Tawba before he/she dies. Anyone who dies in a state of Shirk will never be forgiven by Allah on the Day of Judgment. Its unfortunate that there are many Muslims all over the world who are committing Shirk of one form or another. Until recently a Muslim country used to have a weeklong holiday to send praises to the gods of the sea, yet they recite the Shahada. This Shirk of theirs is major hence it renders their Shahada null and void.

Some commit the Shirk of worship by praying to the graves, others commit the Shirk of Haakimiyya by taking their disputes to the kafir courthouses, or vote for MPs to represent them in parliament and legislate for them. Some commit Shirk by going to soothsayers, diviners and fortunetellers. Some commit Shirk by believing in horoscopes, omens and superstitions, while others go further and indulge in magic. Others commit Shirk by slaughtering animals in the names of deities other than Allah. Some commit Shirk by making tawaaf around graves, and the examples go on and on. This is a Prophesy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) thus he said:

Judgment day will never come till a group of Muslims commit idolatry.

The Excuse of Ignorance

These various types of Shirk which the so-called Muslims are committing is a prophesy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw), thus he said:

"The Day of Judgment will never come till a group of Muslims commit idolatry."

takhreej

It is worthy of mentioning that the excuse of ignorance cannot be used as a defense by a *Mushrik* (pagan) on the Day of Judgment. In regards to this fact Allah said:

"And remember when your Lord brought forth from the loins of Adam his offspring and made them testify as to themselves saying: "Am I not your Lord?" They said "Yes! We testify," lest you should say on the Day of Resurrection: "Verily we have been unaware of this."

"Or lest you should say: It was only our fathers aforetime who took others as partners in worship along with Allah, and we were merely their descendants after them; will you then destroy us because of the deeds of men who practiced Batil, polytheism."

Surah A'raaf 7: 172-173

In the above-mentioned ayahs, Allah told us that the polytheist who committed Shirk in the dunya (life of this world) cannot use the excuse of ignorance as a defense when he stands before Allah to be judge on the Day of Resurrection. This is so because Allah took us from the loins of Adam and made us testify to the fact

that He is our one and only Lord. Allah said He did this so that the Muskrikeen (pagans) cannot use the excuse of ignorance as a defense on the Day of Judgment.

Also in the other ayah Allah said the people who committed major Shirk and died in that state cannot shift the blame to their parents, by claiming they found their parents committing Shirk and they merely followed in their footsteps as children. Allah gave us all a brain to think for ourselves; hence we cannot follow others in polytheism and hope for mercy from Allah on the Day of Judgment. It is for this reason Islam has within its rank many people whose parents are pagans. These reverts, may Allah reward them, embraced Islam after realizing that polytheism is the greatest crime under the heavens, and anyone who dies a polytheist is condemned to the Hell-fire to abide therein forever.

Concerning the excuse of ignorance Allah did not accept it from the Christians who believe Jesus is God or who worship three gods and claim that Allah is the third of three gods in a Trinity. Instead Allah declared them kafirs by saying:

"Surely, they are kafirs who say: Jesus the Messiah the son of Mary is Allah."

"Verily they are infidels who claim that Allah is the third of three deities in a Trinity."

Surah Maida 5: 72-73

In the aforementioned ayahs Allah did not accept the excuse of ignorance from the Christians who worship three gods in a Trinity. Some of them even go further into Shirk by claiming that Jesus is Allah. Instead of giving them the excuse of ignorance for their kufr and Shirk Allah made takfeer on them by declaring them kafirs in Surah Maida 5: 72-73. If Allah did not accept the excuse of ignorance from the Christians who worship three gods in a Trinity, how can we accept the excuse of ignorance from so-called Muslims who worship the graves. These so-called Muslims are predominantly found in the Indo-Pak Subcontinent.

Every Muslim recites the Shahada which means, Nothing deserves to be worshipped except Allah, hence we cannot accept the excuse of ignorance from any so-called Muslim who worships other deities beside Allah. Moreover a so-called Muslim is suppose to be more knowledgeable than a Christian in regards to Tawheed, kufr and Shirk, therefore if Allah didn't accept the excuse of ignorance from a Christian for his Shirk, how can we accept the excuse of ignorance from a so-called Muslim who knows more about Tawheed than the Christian?!

Concerning the so-called Muslims who commit major Shirk by praying to the graves Allah said:

"Surely the worship and the obedience belongs to Allah alone. And those who call upon other gods beside Allah say: "We serve them only that they may bring us nearer to Allah." Verily Allah will judge between them concerning that wherein they differ. Truly Allah guides not him who is a liar and a kafir."

Surah Zumar 39: 3

The reason why Allah labeled these so-called Muslims liars and kafirs is because in Surah Fatiha they say: *iyyaaka na'budu wa iyyaaka nasta'een* i.e. You alone we worship and You alone we ask for help. Yet they worship the graves and other deities beside Allah. Thus their recitation of: iyyaaka na'budu wa iyyaaka nasta'een is fake. Every grave worshipping Berailwi is a liar and a kafir based upon the aforementioned Qur'anic verse.

If a person who was brought up in a home with the Berailwi, Parvezi, extreme sufi, Shia or Ahmadia creed, when he/she reaches puberty embraced authentic Tawheed, this person is deemed a revert just like the person who came into Islam from Judiasm or Christianity. And if a person was brought up in a home with authentic Tawheed, upon reaching puberty he/she became a Shia, extreme Sufi, Berailwi, Parvezi, Ahmadi or Democrat, then he/she has to be deemed an apostate.

If a Muslim votes in Democratic elections, takfeer cannot be made on this person until we establish the hujja evidence against him. This is so because the Shirk of Democracy is unclear. The Ummah is jaahil, ignorant in regards to all the various types of Shirk hence we cannot make takfeer on people who believe in Democracy until we establish the hujja (evidence). If the hujja was established and the person rejects the hujja and continues to believe in Democracy which is the religion of Iblis, then takfeer has to be made on him/her.

If a person was caught praying to something other than Allah eg. the graves, wood, stone or stature, takfeer has to be made on this person even before the hujja is established because this Shirk is clear. This person cannot use the excuse of ignorance as a defense for his major Shirk.

If a person is caught making tawaaf around a grave we are not allowed to make takfeer on him until we establish the hujja because this Shirk is not clear like the Shirk of praying to the graves. Tawaaf is Salah but the ignorant Muslims do not know this Hadith, so we have to establish the hujja against the wayward who makes tawaaf around the graves before we make takfeer on him.

The person who commits major Shirk by performing black magic is a kafir and an apostate even before the hujja is established against him/her. Because Ibn Umar

killed a woman in Madina who worked magic on Hafsa without establishing the hujja on her, and the Sahabas didn't object to the execution.

Indeen the sixth condition of Shahada is singularity of devotion hence no one can be regarded as a real Muslim till he worships Allah alone without associating partners with Him. In this regard Allah said:

"Say: Verily my prayers, my sacrifice, my living and my dying are for Allah, the Lord of the worlds. He has no partner, and of this I have been commanded, and I am the first of the Muslims."

Surah An'am 6: 162-163

The Seventh Condition of Shahada

The seventh and last condition of Shahada is called al walaa wal baraa, to love and hate for Allah's sake. This condition is called **MAHABBA** by the scholars of Islam. It means you should love the Shahada and love those who believe in the Shahada. It also means we should love what Allah loves and hate what Allah hates. This Mahabba can only be practiced by a servant who loves Allah sincerely.

Al Walaa wal Baraa means to show loyalty to Allah, His Mesenger (saw), the Ummah and the Deen. And to show disloyalty to the enemies of Allah, His Messenger (saw), the Ummah and the Deen. Thus anyone who shows love and loyalty to the enemies of Allah and the Deen is a false Muslim and he/she has nullified their Shahada. In regards to al walaa wal baraa Allah said:

"O you who believe! Take not My enemies any your enemies (i.e. disbelievers and polytheists) for friends, showing affection towards them while they have rejected faith in what has come to you of the Haqq, truth."

Surah Mumtahana 60: 1

The above-mentioned ayah is an order from Allah to the Muslims men and women not to take the enemies of Islam for their friends. If they take the enemies of Islam for their friends it means that they are being treacherous to Allah, His Messenger and the Deen. Anyone who takes the enemies of Islam for his friends is guilty of disloyalty and hypocrisy. This hypocrisy is major hence this person has nullified his/her Shahada. The evidence for this verdict is Allah's words;

"**O you who believe! Take not the Jews and the Christians as Auliya (friends,protectors, helpers), because they are friends of each other. And if any amongst you takes them as friends, then surely he is one of them. Verily Allah guides not those people who are wrong-doers.**

"And you shall see those in whose hearts is the disease of hypocrisy, rushing to their friendship saying: We fear lest some misfortune of a disaster may befall us. Perhaps Allah may bring a victory or a decision according to His Will. Then they will become regretful for what they have been keeping as a secret in themselves."

Surah Maida 5: 51-52

The aforementioned ayah means that if a Muslim takes the enemies of Islam from among the Jews and Christians for his friends then he becomes a kafir like them. However if a Muslim have a Christian or Jewish colleague who doesn't show enmity towards the Deen then this Muslim is not a hypocrite. He only becomes a hypocrite when he has friends who are enemies of Allah and the Deen.

I am aware of the fact that there are many so called Muslims who are friendly to the enemies of Islam and even help them to conquer Muslim countries and kill thousands of fellow Muslims. This is the case with the Gulf Arabs who provide logistical support to America to conquer Iraq in April 2003. After Iraq was conquered thousands of Muslim women and girls were brutally raped by the US army which is the army of the Dajjal. All the Muslims who took part in the capture of Iraq by helping the Crusaders have nullified their Shahada because they didn't practice al walaa wal baraa which is the seventh condition of Shahada.

Whenever a Shaykh gives his walaa, allegiance to the Crusaders by passing a fatwa allowing them to have a military base in a Muslim country, that Shaykh becomes a kafir and an apostate. In this regard Ibn Taymiyya said:

"*Whenever a scholar leaves off his knowledge and follows a ruler that governs contrary to Qur'an and Sunnah, that scholar becomes a kafir and an apostate who deserves to be punished both in this life and the in the Hereafter."*

Fatawa 35/373

The above-mentioned statement of Ibn Taymiyya is a fatwa. It is said that the Mujaahideen of Chechnya applied this fatwa, when they executed the Mufti of Grozny, Akhmet Kadyrov with a huge bomb on 9th May 2004, because he passed a fatwa endorsing the brutal Russian occupation of Chechnya. He took sides with the Russians against the Mujaahideen because he labeled them Wahabis and he himself was a Sufi.

He was deemed a wicked scholar by the Mujaahideen who had apostated from Islam, hence he paid the ultimate price because he was executed. No Muslim whether he is a scholar or a layman is allowed to endorse the occupation of a Muslim nation, because the seventh condition of Shahada is to show loyalty to the Ummah and disloyalty to the enemies of the Ummah. In regards to this Allah said:

"You will never find any people who believe in Allah and the Last Day making friendship with the enemies of Allah and His Messenger, even though they were their fathers or their children or their siblings or their clan. For such Allah has written faith in their hearts and strengthened them with divine guidance from Himself."

Surah Mujaadila 58: 22

In the above-mentioned ayah Allah told us that a true Muslim doesn't take the enemies of Allah and His Messenger as their friends and associates. Even though they were their parents, children, siblings or clan. This is because our love for Allah and His Messenger overrides our love for everyone else. Therefore if a member of our family should apostate from Islam we have to break the ties of kinship with that person. It is haram for us to show love and affection to a person who is an enemy of Islam. An apostate is the greatest enemy of Islam.

It is amazing how some Muslims still keep friendship with family members who have turn back on their heels as apostates from Islam. They continue to show affection to these renegades from Islam because they have weak iman. I've seen many Muslim parents who continue to show love to their children who had apostated from Islam. Their excuse is always: "He came from my womb so what do you expect me to do"

It is worthy of mentioning that the Sahabi, Abu Ubaida Ibn Al Jarraah, chopped off the head of his kafir father who came to fight against the Muslims at the battle of Badr. The companions of the Holy Prophet were successful in this life because they didn't compromise with their Deen. The Muslims of today need to abandon hypocrisy and practise al walaa wal baraa if they want to be successful like the Sahabas were.

It must be borne in mind that a Muslim is not allowed to be in a gathering where Allah's Deen is been ridiculed and laughed at. In this regard Allah said:

"And it has already been revealed to you in this book, the Holy Qur'an, that when you hear the verses of Allah being rejected and ridiculed, sit not with them, until they engage in a conversation other than that; but if you stay with them certainly in that case you would be like them. Surely Allah will gather the hypocrites and disbelievers all together in the Hell-fire."

Surah Nisaa 4: 140

In the aforementioned ayah Allah told us that to sit in a gathering where Islam is been ridiculed and mocked is an act of major kufr that ejects the Muslim outside the fold of Islam. This is so because he/she fails miserable to practise al walaa wal baraa. By sitting in a gathering where Allah's Deen is been ridiculed it means that this so called Muslim is a traitor, hypocrite and a fake Muslim. He has failed miserably to show loyalty to Allah, His Rasool and the Deen. Instead he did the opposite and showed loyalty to the enemies of Allah who were mocking the Deen.

It is worthy of mentioning that not every kafir declares war on Islam; some kafirs are sympathisers to Islam because they realise that it is the truth from Allah. The best example of such kafir is the uncle of the Holy Prophet Abu Talib who helped and supported the Prophet when he realised Islam was the Haqq from Allah.

We were told by Allah to deal justly with the non-Muslims who did not show antagonism towards Islam and the Muslims. Thus Allah said:

"**Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of your religion, nor drove you out of your homes. Verily Allah loves those who deal with equity."**

"It is only as regards those who fought against you on account of religion and have driven you out, that Allah forbids you to befriend them. And whosoever will befriend them such are the wrong-doers."

Surah Mumtahana 60: 8-9

In the aforementioned Quranic verse, Allah made a difference between those non Muslims who are sympathetic towards Islam and those who are antagonistic. I find it necessary to quote this Qur'anic verse because quite often I've seen some Muslims paint every kafir with the same brush and give them the same label and verdict. Even in the time of the Holy Prophet (saw), there were non Muslims who used to recite poems praising the Holy Prophet and Islam.

There are some non Muslims who campaign for the freedom of the Muslims who are held unjustly in Guantanamo Bay. Others campaign for the freedom of the Kashmiri and Palestinian people. There are non Muslims who were killed by the Israeli army because they were highlighting the plight of the Palestinians with the media.

Asmaa the daughter of Abu bakr had a pagan mother called Qutayla, and she came to visit Asmaa and brought gifts with her. However Asmaa refused the gifts and didn't allow her mother in the home, because she wasn't a Muslim at the time of her visit. Allah didn't approve of Asmaa's treatment towards her mother so Allah revealed the ayah:

"Allah does not forbid you to deal justly and kindly with those who fought not against you on account of your religion."*

The Holy Prophet ordered Asmaa to accept her mother's gifts and let her enter the home even before Allah revealed the ayah, hence the ayah came down to confirm the verdict of the Rasool (saw).

Asmaa's mother Qutayla even though she was an idolatress at the time, didn't show enmity towards Islam and Muslims. Some non-Muslim parents are quite demonstrable in showing hatred and enmity towards Allah and His Deen. An example of such parent is the father of Prophet Ibrahim (as), thus Allah said:

"Indeed there is an excellent example for you in Ibrahim and those believers with him, when they said to their people: Verily we are free from you and whatever you worship besides Allah: We have rejected you, and there has arisen between us and you hostility and hatred forever until you believe in Allah alone."

Surah Mumtahana 60: 4

Allah told us in the above ayah that Prophet Ibrahim (as) practised al walaa wal baraa with his own father who was a pagan. He renounced his father and gave him an ultimatum, which was to worship Allah alone or else hostility and hatred will forever be between them. Indeed the seventh condition of Shahada is to love and hate for Allah's sake, and no one can be regarded as a true believer unless he/she practises this condition of the Shahada.

Conclusion

Dear reader, I would like to thank you for sacrificing your time to read this book, The 7 Conditions of Shahada. After reading this work we can safely conclude that the Ummah is in dire need of the knowledge which is in this book. Thus I beseech you to share this knowledge with your family, friends and colleagues.

Everyday people are coming into the fold of Islam by taking their Shahada. We would like all new reverts to live in accordance with these seven conditions of the Shahada, so that their conversion to Islam will be counted as valid by Allah on the Day of resurrection.

There are millions of Muslims all over the world who are not living up to these seven conditions of the Shahada because of ignorance about their Deen. On the fairwell pilgrimage, the Holy Prophet told his Sahabas to take the message of Islam to those who didn't hear it. The graves of the Sahabas are to be found in Asia, Africa, Europe and all over the world. Because they were zealous about the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge. Likewise you the reader of this book should take this knowledge to all the Muslims who are your nearest and dearest. Those who reform themselves due to your dawa efforts will benefit you in this life and the next. Because when they pray, fast, pay Zakah, make Hajj, do jihad etc you the daa'ee will receive the reward, without their reward been diminished.

This work is ideal to use for a Friday sermon or a lecture at a weekly study circle. As Muslims we should memorise the seven conditions of Shahada the way we memorise Surah Fatiha because Allah said:

"**O you who believe! Fear Allah as He is supposed to be feared and do not die unless you die as true Muslims."**

Surah Ali Imraan 3: 102

In order for us to die as true Muslims like Allah requested of us in the Holy Qur'an, we need to live in accordance with the seven conditions of Shahada. I pray Allah will make this humble effort of mine be of benefit to many generations to come. I pray Allah that I the author and you the reader will have the iman to live up to the seven conditions of Shahada to gain Allah's pleasure and be successful in this life and in the Hereafter. I pray Allah that we all die with the Shahada in order to enter the Paradise on the Day of Resurrection

Shaikh Abdullah Faisal

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